

MONO COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Minutes Monday, March 13, 2006, 9:00 a.m.

Attendance

Commissioners Present

Tony Barrett- Chair
Hap Hazard-Vice Chair
John Cecil, Supervisor
John Eastman, Councilman
Byng Hunt, Supervisor

Caltrans

Bryan Winzenread
Brad Mettam
Ryan Dermody

Others

Staff Present

Scott Burns, LTC Director
Gerry LeFrancois, Mono County Planner
Gwen Plummer, Mono County Planner
Kelly Garcia, Mono County Public Works
Mark Jackson, Town of Mammoth Lakes

Monicka Watterson, Inyo Mono Transit
Vikki Bauer, Mono County Supervisor
Cheri Bromberger, June Lake Chamber
Ron Lueschner, The Four Seasons, June Lake
Mary Beth Hennessy, U.S. Forest Service
Leslie Willoughby, Long Valley RPAC
Kathy Copland, Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra
John McElhone, Head Start, Lee Vining

Agenda items may not have been taken in order

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Leslie Willoughby of the Long Valley Regional Planning Advisory Committee requested a discussion on speed signs for the Crowley Lake area be agendaized on the next Local Transportation Commission meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Supervisor Hazard moved to approve the January 23, 2006 minutes. Seconded by Councilman Barrett. Passed 5/0. Commissioner Harvey abstained. Those in favor: Barrett, Cecil, Eastman, Hazard, Hunt.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Commissioner Eastman moved to nominate Commissioner Barrett as Chairman. Commissioner Cecil seconded the motion. Passed 6/0. Those in favor: Barrett, Cecil, Eastman, Hazard, Harvey, Hunt.

Commissioner Cecil moved to nominate Commissioner Hazard as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Eastman seconded the motion. Passed 6/0. Those in favor: Barrett, Cecil, Eastman, Hazard, Harvey, Hunt.

4. 9:00 A.M. –

a. Conduct Public Hearing Concerning Unmet Transit Needs in Mono County

Chairman Barrett opened the public hearing to receive testimony at 9:19 a.m.

Kathy Copeland, speaking in behalf of the Disabled Sports Eastern Sierra (DSES), spoke of the transportation needs of disabled and elderly people in the Town of Mammoth. The DSES program is becoming more successful and poses a challenge to get the people around town and up to the mountain in winter conditions. Discussion followed regarding the Dial-a-Ride service and how it can and will accommodate the needs of the DSES, and the need to design bus stops to accommodate the buses with wheelchair ramps and lifts.

Cheri Bromberger, speaking in behalf of the June Lake Chamber of Commerce, noted the following needs for the community of June Lake:

1. There is a large population from June Lake that works in Mammoth and needs transit service between June Lake and Mammoth...
2. There is a growing population of June Lake residents that do not drive or have cars and need to go to medical appointments and shop in Mammoth.
3. There is also a group of people from June Lake that attend Cero College that requires transportation.
4. During the winter months there are a great number of visitors coming from Mammoth to visit June Lake and there is a need for a shuttle service to join the two communities and to help cut back on the travel between the two communities and relieve parking and traffic congestion.

Ron Lueschner, of the Four Seasons in June Lake, noted that during the summer months families arrive in one car to visit the area. He said there is a need for a shuttle service between Mammoth and June Lake so while one member of the family is fishing, hiking, etc. the other is free to travel, explore, shop and get groceries between the two communities.

Vikki Bauer, Supervisor of District 3, noted the topic of transit in June Lake has been at the top of the unmet needs list for many years and that last summer the Chamber of Commerce and the Mountain contracted with Inyo Mono Transit to bring a buses up to June Lake for a couple of their big weekends. For the first time buses with the Inyo Mono Transit logo were driving around June Lake the local population became very excited about these services and the community became very aware that they were lacking these services what a need there was for them. Vikki also noted that the Mountain buses in their employees to and from the ski area every day during the winter and there is obviously more than mountain employees that need transportation services between Mammoth and June Lake. There is no longer a medical clinic in June Lake and the population must travel to Mammoth for their medical needs. Supervisor Bauer suggested a pilot program be started between June Lake and Mammoth.

John McElhone, advocating Head Start, noted there is a need for transportation in Lee Vining for pre-schoolers. If the Pre-school Referendum passes, pre-schoolers will be required to attend school for three to four hours a day, five days a week and at this time there is no transportation.

Discussion followed on applying for a 5310 funds for bus acquisitions. Commissioner Hazard suggested the LTC lobby our representatives to change the criteria for 5310 grant. Mr. LeFrancois suggested the Rural Counties Task Force is meeting this Friday and the commissioners may attend by phone. Saturday, the Rural Issues Candidates forum will be held at Cero Coso College. Several state candidates will be attending to discuss rural issues and this might also be a place to bring up transit related issues.

Chairman Barrett continued the hearing to April 10, 2006, at 9:00 A.M. in Mammoth Lakes.

b. **Consider appointing members to the Mono County Social Service Transportation Advisory Council.** Commissioner Eastman moved to appoint Carolyn Balliet, Beth Himelhoch, Judi Stern and Terry Smutney to the Social Service Transportation Council. Commissioner Hazard seconded the motion. Passed 6/0. Those in favor: Barrett, Cecil, Eastman, Hazard, Harvey, Hunt.

5. ADMINISTRATION

a. **Discuss draft 2006-2007 Overall Work Plan**

Gerry Le Francois reviewed the draft 2006-2007 Overall Work Program (OWP) with the commissioners. He noted the OWP sets the parameters for staff's projects and town and county staff needs for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. LeFrancois reviewed the seven elements and noted the new funding item under element 200 regarding staff time involved in the preparation of the Eastern Sierra Transit Authority/Strategic Plan related to the Joint Power Authority for transit service.

Commissioner Hazard asked that a work program be added to the OWP regarding the impact the new industrial development in Sparks and what impact it will have on Highway 6 vehicular traffic, and Mr. LeFrancois added it should be put into the Regional Transportation Plan as well.

b. **Update on Eastern California Transportation Planning Partnership (ECTPP)**

Mr. Le Francois updated the commissioners on the meeting that took place in February. He noted that at the next meeting Caltrans District 8 will be giving an update on the larger MOU project on Highway 395 from Highway 58 to Interstate 19.

6. TRANSIT

a. **Update on activities in Mono County**

Inyo Mono Transit is advertising for drivers for the upcoming summer season.

b. **YARTS Update.**

Minor changes to the June Lake loop route were approved by consensus.

c. **Update on Joint Powers Authority (JPA)**

Mr. Burns updated the commissioners on the status of the JPA.

7. CALTRANS

Update on activities in Mono County including Quarterly Report

Brad Mettam has the State of the State Transit System in the Eastern Sierra presentation available for the commissioners if they would like. He noted the Governor's proposal to add 107 billion dollars to transportation infrastructure funding including to 6 billion dollars bond proposals.

Ryan Dermody said the Interregional Goods Movement presentation will be available next month. Mr. Dermody noted that it has been a year since the last Inyo/Mono joint LTC meeting and it is Mono County's turn to host it.

Bryan Winzenread reviewed the status of the Inyo County projects with the commissioners. The assessment of the radar signs along Hwy. 395 in Inyo County will be available in the next couple of months.

Commissioner Hazard requested the status of the meeting between District 9 and Caltrans regarding the January storm. Mr. Mettam said he will have the results of that meeting at the next meeting.

Supervisor McGee asked the status of the Gas Ex project in Lee Vining. Mr. Mettam said Caltrans is currently gathering data regarding placement of a Gas Ex system in that area.

8. STATE / REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

a. Quarterly update on the projects in the Town of Mammoth Lakes

Mark Jackson reviewed the status of the Forest Service and Town visitor's center project and the Lake Mary bike lane project.

b. Quarterly update on the projects in Mono County

Kelly Garcia reviewed the status of County projects: The flashing beacons in Lee Vining and Bridgeport are operational; Lundy Lake Road project is funded for construction in the next fiscal year; once the plans are revised for the June Lake Streetscape project, the project will be rebid; revised plans have been submitted to Caltrans for the Lee Vining Landscape project; staff is currently preparing allocation request for the environmental work on the Owens River Road, Owens Gorge Road and Bridgeport Streets.

Ms. Garcia noted that the first phase of the Court House Accessibility Project has begun. The second phase will go out to bid this week. Several other phases are planned in the near future.

9. INFORMATIONAL ITEM

a. Project fact sheet for the North Mojave 4-Lane

b. Response to June Lake Advocates

10. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – April 10, 2006

11. ADJOURN

* Start times are only tentative. Although the Local Transportation Commission strives to follow the agenda as scheduled, it reserves the right to take any agenda item, in any order, and at any time after its meeting starts. The only way to ensure that you are present for a particular agenda item is to attend the meeting from the time it starts until that agenda item is actually addressed.